

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
April 13, 2015**

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Mary Beachley	Sue Ramsburg	Ernell Graham		
John Brown	Pat Rosensteel	Randy McClement, Mayor		
Elizabeth Chung	Carolyn True	Virginia Skelley		
Carol Haag		Cynthia White		
Ann Holiday				
M.C. Keegan-Ayers				
Tom Lawler				
Katie Rhinehart-Hemler				
Roberta Speace				

- I. **Call to Order** – Carol Haag called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Carol welcomed all attendees. Introductions were done around the table.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – Carol would like to add an opportunity for public comment following today's presentation in addition to the public comment at the end of the meeting. A report Legislative Report from Tish Raff will also be added to the agenda.

- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the March 9th meeting were approved. John Brown made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Beachley seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- V. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Randy McClement was unable to attend today's meeting.

Councilmen's Report – M.C. Keegan-Ayers has no report today.

- VI. **Presentation and Commission Input, Frederick County Area Plan FY 2016, Carolyn True** – Carolyn explained that the Area plan is a four year plan that gives details on how the county/state/federal funding is spent by the Department of Aging to provide support services for the older population. The Plan is reviewed every year, but every fourth year a full update is required. The upcoming Plan is for 2016-2019 and will be a complete update. This Plan will demonstrate how home and community based services will be provided by the Dept of Aging programs. All the Department services are based on funding. The FY '16 funding levels at this time are unknown and the numbers for this Plan are based on 2015 numbers. The Plan will be updated as soon as funding amounts are determined and the CoA will be informed once those revisions are made. Carolyn went over the ongoing initiatives with a brief description of each category. She reviewed the future initiatives the Department hopes to include in the upcoming fiscal year. Some of these are based on the results of the Needs Assessment. Many of these goals depend on funding and many partnerships will be needed. Carolyn reviewed local agencies that the Department currently has partnerships with and possible future partnership agencies. The staff and the volunteers of the Department are committed to continuing to provide services to the community and those in needs. The population served by the Department includes seniors, caregivers, and adults with disabilities. Carolyn at this time asked for any public and/or Commission input/comment.

Public/Commission Comment

Carol Haag – Carol questioned when the submission of the Area Plan is due. Will an update on the 2015 Area Plan accomplishments be available today? What was the original guidance from the MD Dept of Aging for the MAP advisory group? Carol asked for specific numbers for the MoW program. How much money received from Friends of MoWs has been spent?

Carolyn - The due date to the State is May 15th. The plan requires signatures by Carolyn, the Chair of the CoA, and the County Executive. A draft will be submitted to the CoA by the end of April/first week of May for their review. We are on track to complete some of the goals as far as expanding the MoW

program, the Ombudsman program has offered multiple outreach events, and senior centers have advanced with the Friendship Café at the Frederick Senior center which has a revenue balance. The MAP program has not been able to progress as we would have liked because the future funding stream is uncertain. However this program has expanded some outreach initiatives. The MD DoA suggested the MAP advisory board members should be able to speak about local issues such as transportation and housing. Some counties have started working on their advisory groups, but Frederick County has not due to its unknown future. During the first six months of this 2015 fiscal year, the MoW program has served approximately 42,000 meals.

Elizabeth Chung asked about options for ethical/cultural training and competencies in the plan. She would like to see expansion of services available for the diverse population. There are many new immigrants in the area and is there anything in the plans for this population. What are the priorities in the Plan?

Carolyn – The need for cultural training/resources is recognized in the Plan as there is a growing population of seniors with different ethnic/cultural backgrounds. The priorities have not been determined at this point. It will depend on funding and the strategic plan from the County Executive. There is flexibility in the plan as it will be updated each year.

Tom Lawler – Tom inquired of baseline data points possibly each month to track waiting lists. It would be helpful to the CoA to have a tool to use to review what progress is being made. Is there any way to partner with educational institutes to obtain data?

Carolyn –Data collection has been a problem for the DoA as well as the State DoA. The tools that the Department uses are not beneficial for data collection. This should be on the list as a future initiative.

Carol Haag stated that data collection is a very important issue as far as planning. There is a new County Executive who is putting together a Strategic Plan and it is very difficult to put together a plan without knowing the exact needs.

Carolyn – The Department knows who we are serving and how we are serving them; the unknown is the people who need services that have not come into the Department. We need to rely on people and partners in the community who know of people who have needs and can direct them to the Department.

Dianne Lewis – Dianne asked about partnerships that are needed for the data collection. What type of information is being pulled together? What are we doing to get that information? What is being done to

develop partnerships? What is being done to build partnerships that may be able to provide funds to assist the Dept of Aging? There will be a need to subsidize funding in order to serve the senior population which may not be able to afford a fee based service while allowing them to retain their dignity. It would be good to build a team from the staff of the DoA, the CoA, and people from the community.

Carolyn – The Department is in constant communication with other agencies. The Department uses a software program called AIM which is required by the State to accumulate data which is then submitted to the State in the form of required reports. This database collects demographic information and what services seniors are receiving. This information is included in the Area Plan. If they are receiving services, they are in the database. If they are on a wait list they are not on in the database.

Dr. Joe Berman – Joe feels that data collection is important. He has offered in the past assistance to help collect data specifically for the MoW program. He states that there is a need for more accurate data. How can you provide services if you do not know what services are needed? He would like to know how the CoA and the DoA are going to work together to collect the data needed to recognize trends. He would like to see specific questions answered to how the data will be collected, how it will be collected, where the data will reside, who will analyze it, and how it will be used to determine services/needs.

Carol Haag – Carol states that she would like to define the relationship between the DoA and the CoA. She believes there needs to be a more supportive working relationship and more communication regarding the issues and difficulties. What can the CoA do to assist with data collection? She would like to see the CoA out in the community educating and gathering information from citizens. She feels there is a need for a senior coalition so that each member of the CoA has organizations and individuals to work with to gather information.

Tish Raff – Tish suggested a short survey go out with a bill that all in the community may receive, maybe with the water bill or another bill that everyone gets. The survey could be accompanied with a request for donation for services or ideas for future funding or partnerships.

Elizabeth Chung – Are any data collection strategies included in the Area Plan? It is very important to have the data in order to plan and move forward. It is a fundamental need. It is important to work with partners to help to collect the data.

Mary Beachley – There may be a need for a workgroup to decide what information is needed before data can be collected. What data is needed and how will it be used? The data request needs to be

more defined. Is it possible to use the data already being collected? The bigger question is who in the community is not being reached. There is a need to get churches and other community groups involved. It would be valuable to work with physician groups who see some of these people on a regular basis.

Tom Lawler – Tom agrees that there may be a need for a workgroup. This may be something the Executive Committee could work on. Let's start with the data that is already available and go from there.

Cindy Powell – Cindy questioned where is the review from the Plan ending in 2015 and how did we do as a County? This will give a baseline on what needs to be resolved for future success. The Plan should have clear goals and objectives. There is a need for numbers in order to know what is going to be needed and advocated for. There should be a dashboard report every month to know what the numbers are. She would like to see a narrative that prioritizes and sets goals. What resources are needed to meet these goals? The CoA needs this information in order to advocate for the DoA. She would like to see a review, an evaluation and a firm narrative plan that offers goals and objectives.

Edi Stewart – Edi is a clinical social worker who works with elders. She has worked with the DoA in the Caregiver Support Program. Her concerns are about reaching groups of people and the need for individuals to do the work of reaching out. It should be people in the community with encouragement from the DoA. There are people who need assistance who may not admit to needing services. There is a great need for affordable housing. It isn't enough just to provide education, there needs to be a plan. Because of the Needs Assessment we now know the needs and should figure out ways to reach out to meet these needs. It is up to individuals to speak up and get the word out.

Pat Rosensteel – Pat states that affordable housing is a need in all areas. The DoA cannot specifically help with housing. The Housing Department works on plans regarding affordable houses and gaps in what is currently available.

RaeAnn Butler – RaeAnn (former CoA member/Chair) has been aware of the Area Plan over the last several years. She states that because of the recent Needs Assessment there is a great opportunity for growth and change. The Area Plan needs to be focused with a change effort. It is a time consuming effort to complete this report and there is a strict timeline. It is time to change direction and focus. It is very challenging for staff to predict what needs may come to the forefront over the next four years and into the future. There are

community resources that may be available to assist with this challenge. There will be changes to the senior community that may require services not historically provided.

Dianne Lewis – Dianne asked about the State funding that the County relinquished several years ago that would have supported seniors with housing needs. Is there anything being done to recapture that funding? She is referring to the group senior assisted housing subsidy.

Carolyn – The group senior assisted housing subsidy fund was available ten years ago. The funds were to be used specifically for assisted living facilities with 4-16 beds only. At the time there was only one facility who could utilize these funds. The two individuals who were in the program had to drop out of the program. The State decided at that time to give the funds to other counties who could use them. Carolyn has inquired about retrieving these funds as they could possibly be used now. The funding would either need to be increased by the General Assembly or other counties would have to give up some funds.

Carol Haag – Carol appreciates the public comments and suggestions presented at today's meeting. A priority at the next Executive Committee meeting will be to look at the data that is being collected and looking at ways the reporting can be improved.

Kathy Schey – Kathy works for the DoA. She would like to talk about the data being mentioned today. There have been reports distributed at a previous meeting. Kathy has been working with an individual at the state to work on reports and statistics in regard to seniors in the community. It is an ongoing process. Kathy is also working on receiving Federal statistics and data. The DoA staff continues to work on the needs for data and ways to capture this data. Input is welcome in this endeavor. Kathy has assisted an individual in the community who was interested in using the housing in a specific way. Kathy suggested that she could check with her contact at the state to get some statistics based on ethnicity.

Elizabeth Chung – It is very important to have data/statistics on ethnicity in order to make future plans for this population.

Meg Motter/AERS – AERS is the starting place when seniors are in need of affordable in-home services. Meg would like to speak for and defend the government employees who work with a population who is extremely needy. She gave a specific example of a gentleman who has become alone and homeless and the struggle to find housing for this person because his income is extremely low. The staff is helping people now who are in desperate need of services. There are many needs in the community and few services. The majority of services

which are available have a waiting list. People need to plan now for resources they may need in the future. Staff are overworked and overwhelmed and working very hard to meet the needs of those in the community who cannot afford to pay for those services in the private industry. She encourages members of the CoA to go into a senior center and see what the needs are of those who attend there. She would encourage the CoA to find exactly what their role is in evaluating what is being done at the DoA. Agencies may respond better to an offer of help rather than requesting that agencies ask for help when they think it is needed. She was glad to see the clarification of the assisted living subsidy. It seems sometimes there is incorrect information in the community.

Sonya Sperlich – Sonya has been working on the mission of saving Montevue in the last few years. She supports the statement that things are not as they have been in the past. This is the time for change. There is not a lot of time to change the Area Plan which will be due for submission soon. More reports are not needed, action is needed. Priorities need to be set and people need to fight for those priorities. There is a need for continuum of care for frail senior citizens in the community. There continues to be a need for Montevue and more.

Carol Haag – Seniors are a fast growing resource with wonderful skills. RSVP would be a place to start with volunteers helping in the community to help meet some of these needs. An effective volunteer program may be able to offer resources to the agencies in need of help. The CoA needs to continue looking at the data and set priorities on what needs to be done. Next month there will be a presentation on the “Villages” concept. This concept allows local community networks that will have individuals helping others in their community. There will be representatives from other parts of the state that have been successful in implementing this concept.

- VII. Business Task Force Update Tom Lawler** – The Business Task Force is a subgroup of the Commission. Its goal is to educate business leaders and make them aware of the struggles employees may be going through while caregiving for their family members. The group plans to hold a symposium on May 8th at the Frederick County Dept of Aging from 8am until 4:30pm. Jenny Morgan from the Chamber of Commerce has put a lot of effort into planning this event. Lisa Schultz from IHire will be a keynote speaker. There will be vendor displays and other speakers for senior topics. There is no fee for this even and a breakfast and lunch will be offered. It is open to the public. Information is available on the Chamber website. Tom states the group has also been working on expanding senior daycare options. There is only one in the County which has open slots. The

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group is also working on a resource flyer. There are also working on an initiative to educate discharge procedures on what options are available to seniors who are discharging from the hospital.

County Executive Budget Appeals Hearing, Virginia Skelley – No time available for this report.

Meals on Wheels Ride-Alongs, Commission Members – No time available for this report.

May Meeting Plans “Village” Movement, “New Ideas”, Carol Haag, Tom Lawler – No time available for this discussion.

VIII. Announcements –

IX. Public Comment -

Kathy Hutchens – The AERS program sees people who cannot afford services in the community. She sees individuals who cannot afford any services. It is very discouraging to offer services to seniors when the services all have waiting lists. She states there is a need for businesses to donate funding or services for these individuals who are dying in this community. Transportation getting to the doctors so individuals can be seen. Local physicians are dropping Medicare services.

Katie Rhinehart-Hemler – She would refer individuals who needs services to go to SOAR. There are professionals in the community who have funds that could be used in the community.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary